

All R. Artist 691

Chapter 691: The Full Army Strikes

This night!

In countless people's headphones or speakers, a song called "The Seventh Chapter of Night" was all playing simultaneously.

Click, click, click, click, click, click!

Behind the sound of the typewriter, the dark luxurious melody was mysterious and clear, with great impact. It was as shattering as a soul crying out!

As the song ended.

The huge fan groups of Sherlock Holmes blew up in silence!

Just as Xu Tao had predicted:

No Sherlock Holmes fan could possibly remain unmoved after hearing this song——

The shattered knees were destined!

"My god!"

"Fell straight to my knees!"

"So this is the theme music Fish Papa created for Sherlock Holmes? I got goosebumps all over my body, almost every lyric symbolises a story in Sherlock Holmes, I had worried about whether Xian Yu could manifest the essence of Sherlock Holmes through the song..."

"As a fan of Fish Papa, I can only say: You know nothing about power."

"Church bell, classical piano, and the accompaniment of organ, bass drum, pirate ship whistle, constant violin in the background, who doesn't know that violin is Sherlock Holmes' favorite instrument? This song is an absolute perfect depiction of the novel world!"

"The atmosphere of mystery in the song is superb!"

"Listening to the song, I feel like I could become Sherlock Holmes and solve cases!"

"The eerie and sinister feel under the mysterious atmosphere, I've heard songs from Xian Yu before, but none of them had this sense of darkness. Definitely the best theme song for a novel, it's like goddamn movie soundtrack!"

"Listen to this and I want to replay 'Sherlock Holmes'!"

"Even though I graduated from Yan Continent Music Academy, I feel empty after listening to this song, those five years of my university life... this song will undoubtedly become a masterpiece in the heart of all Sherlock Holmes fans!"

"Why the hell aren't we rushing for it yet?"

"Even if it's not for the friendship between Fish Papa and the old rascal, or the fact that Xian Yu saved Sherlock Holmes, the quality of this song alone is worth all the Sherlock Holmes fans to go all out!"

"..."

Sherlock Holmes fans are shocked!

This is a moment of celebration for Sherlock Holmes fans!

Yet, at this moment, who else but Sherlock Holmes fans love this song?

Even those who hadn't watched "Sherlock Holmes", became captives of this song!

"This song is super incredible!"

"No wonder Fish Papa is not changing the songs, with this quality, why on earth would Fish Papa change songs for the ranking?"

"Was directly blown away by Xian Yu!"

"Love Fish Papa's rap, love it!"

"When the main song started, I knew that I had my loop for the next few days. It's an unprecedented music style, I can hardly believe that this is the same Xian Yu that wrote 'Red Roses'!"

"Jiang Kui's chorus is astonishing, perfectly complementing Fish Papa's finale like a god descended!"

"Those who were worried that they might not get this song because they haven't watched Sherlock Holmes can rest assured now."

"Even though your critiques are high, I think it's just ok."

"+1 upstairs, I feel like the song is a bit complex?"

"Fish Papa is really something, following 'Wukong' led me to watch Journey to the West, and this song directly prompted me to order a collection of Sherlock Holmes novels in the middle of the night."

"..."

Ordinary music fans are also shocked!

However, unlike Sherlock Holmes fans, some of the ordinary fans had doubts about this song.

In fact.

At this juncture, it's not Sherlock Holmes fans, but music professionals who can truly appreciate the awe of this song!

Xian Yu wants to clear the 12 seasons.

The Four Maestros gang up on Xian Yu for revenge.

How could music professionals not pay attention to such a grand event?

After listening to this song, the knees of the music world are truly the most heavily burdened!

"Is this his answer for June?"

"It's near perfect!"

"The execution of grace notes is superb!"

"The design of the counterpoint is unbeatable!"

"You're all correct, but the most kickass part of this song is inevitably the arrangement, particularly the chords after two minutes and fifty-two seconds - they're simply explosive. This is the first time I've felt that Xian Yu's arrangement skills match his compositional abilities!"

"The key is in the chords!"

"You haven't seen Sherlock Holmes. If you'd read the novel, you'd have a higher opinion of the lyrics. Some of the lyrics in this song use filmic contrast, I can't think of anyone else who could write lyrics like this. After all, not everyone is as well-versed in both music and film as he is."

"The way he sings is also crucial!"

"That's what I wanted to mention too, the way he sings this time is quite unique. I've never before heard him personally, or any other Blue Star artists sing this way. Perhaps only this kind of singing can bring out the special flavor of this song."

"But this song has a big problem."

"Yes, this problem is a regret that all singers can't avoid."

"The appreciation threshold has increased."

"An increased difficulty in song creation could very likely cause the song's popularity to increase inversely. Xian Yu's previous pop songs focused a lot on being catchy, but he chose a dark and mysterious style for this song. Under such circumstances, it's easy for non-fans to be disinterested in this song."

"..."

People in the music industry also identified the problem.

At the root of it all, is anxiety over a previously worried problem:

If you make a song themed on Sherlock Holmes, the main audience will be enthusiasts of Sherlock Holmes, and those who haven't read the novel will inevitably have some limitations listening to this song.

Even though Xian Yu has done such a great job!

Even though Xian Yu has taken into account varying tastes on a broad scale!

But, there are some fundamental problems that are definitely difficult to avoid.

You can see a glimmer of this from the comments sprinkled with a few unanswered voices.

In the end, you can't satisfy everyone perfectly.

This isn't Xian Yu's problem; no composer could achieve the perfect blend for both these audiences, after all, Sherlock Holmes narrative is inherently mysterious with a hint of darkness...

In fact.

Lin Yuan also knew about this problem.

In the bunch of songs most highly acclaimed by Director Zhou, among Earth's elite, someone would mention "The Seventh Chapter of Night", but when it comes to catchiness...

This song still falls short of "Balloon of Confessions".

But, Lin Yuan still has confidence in this song!

Because there are always some songs that can change the music industry's value of based primarily on catchiness.

There are always some songs that don't need anyone to sing along to. If it just lies quietly in a playlist, you can still experience its abyss-like stare.

The most crucial point is:

Blue Star's situation is different from Earth's!

What are the differences exactly?

Let's start explaining with some simple data.

At this time, it was one a.m.

The June season chart finally updated.

When countless people opened the season's rankings, the first thing that caught their eye was undoubtedly Xian Yu's new song, "The Seventh Chapter of Night"!

First place!

The data for this song left the second, third, fourth, and fifth places far behind!

And in those second, third, fourth, and fifth places were the tracks of the four other Maestros who released new music around the same time!

They were all stunned!

Everyone was stunned!

This had left everyone in the music industry in complete shock!

Could a song that's fated to lack popularity top the charts?

They searched through the comments and all kinds of responses on the internet about "The Seventh Chapter of Night", until they finally found the essential truth in a series of slightly crazy comments...

A clue can be found in Chu Kuang's comment section.

The top comment, with the highest likes is:

[Guys, for "The Seventh Chapter of Night", let the world see the allure of Sherlock Holmes!]

Loyal fans of Holmes, unite!

Holmes fans, unite!

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All out attack!

Chapter 692: Calm on the surface, but actually panicking inside

The Holmes fans are making their move!

And it's a full-on onslaught!

The result.

Thanks to these bookworms, they've managed to push the download numbers for "The Seventh Chapter of the Night" and secure Xian Yu's top spot on the music charts!

Their enthusiasm is unmatched!

They're rallying each other!

"We can't let Fish Papa's efforts be in vain, it's time for the Holmes fans to repay Xian Yu!"

"As a Holmes fan, I've switched six music listening apps and downloaded 'The Seventh Chapter of the Night' six times just to support Fish Papa in the charts!"

The seasonal chart competition focuses on download numbers.

An individual can contribute to multiple downloads.

Because you can use different music listening apps to download the same song.

This is a common practice when supporting an idol.

"Six times is nothing, I've already switched to the eighth music listening app."

"People are saying online Fish Papa's Holmes-themed song is too niche to make the charts, but this month us Holmes fans will show just how popular Holmes really is!"

"Even solely based on our Holmes fans' support, this song can top the charts!"

"With all the Holmes fans banding together to support, who cares if non-fans don't appreciate it?"

"I absolutely adore 'The Seventh Chapter of the Night', it's a song tailor-made for Holmes, Fish Papa has done so much for Holmes, it's time we repaid him!"

"Located in Qin Continent, our Holmes fan group has six hundred members and we've already contributed eight hundred and fifty-three downloads!"

"You guys are lacking, our Qi Continent group of three hundred has contributed over seven hundred downloads!"

"Well, the Chu Continent Holmes Fan Club is picking up the pace, we'll scare you with our numbers later!"

"The Yan Continent Fan Club is also stepping up, let's see who has the fiercest fans."

"If we're talking about fierceness, our Han Continent isn't to be trifled with, Fish Papa was kind to us when he released his English songs, now all our Han Continent Holmes fans are raring to join the fight!"

"..."

While trying to make it to the charts.

The fans from different continents have also started a rivalry.

The five continents are competitive with each other while continuously rallying fans to support 'The Seventh Chapter of the Night'!

It's quite rare.

It's seldom seen that a group of non-ordinary fans supports, with their utmost dedication, a song to make it to the charts!

In fact.

The goal of these Holmes fans is not only to help 'The Seventh Chapter of the Night' top the charts!

At the same time.

This is the first time the Holmes fans are flaunting their terrific influence to the world!

They want to prove how massive the Holmes fan group is!

So enormous that solely by their efforts, they can help a song achieve the seasonal championship!

Isn't it said that Xian Yu handcuffed himself by composing a Holmes-themed song?

Sorry!

We Holmes fans are not Xian Yu's handcuffs!

We're Xian Yu's powerful boost, an unprecedented boost, even a decisive force, let us determine the trajectory of the sixth season championship of the music world!

Under this passionate atmosphere.

The download numbers of Xian Yu's 'The Seventh Chapter of the Night' are skyrocketing, the top spot is becoming more and more unshakeable!

...

Music professionals are known for analyzing music, not adept at analyzing the market and public opinion.

Who would've thought that the power of Holmes fans would be so tremendous!

Xian Yu's decision to allow Chu Kuang to change the ending of Holmes has finally reaped its rewards!

In their shock.

Some music industry insiders even exclaimed:

"Who the hell can tell me exactly how massive the number of Holmes fans is!"

"This is just too fierce!"

"Just because Xian Yu saved Holmes?"

"This is quite the repayment!"

"It's not just repayment."

"The fact that Holmes fans are helping so ardently to make the charts, the decisive reason is because 'The Seventh Chapter of the Night' conquered the Holmes fans."

"If you don't watch Sherlock Holmes, you definitely can't appreciate the charm of this song."

"But those who have watched Sherlock Holmes will find this song is so much more than just a song!"

"It happened to be released at the time when Sherlock Holmes was just finished, when the fans were flooded with sentiment. A quality song related to Sherlock Holmes suddenly emerges, directly triggering their collective climax."

"No wonder it's a novel that sparked massive marches from readers across five continents just because of its unhandled ending!"

"The fans of this novel, they are freaking fierce!"

"..."

The previous music analysis was actually not bad.

It would be hard for Xian Yu's song to top the charts.

Not because of the song itself, but the audience of the work.

In terms of music style, the dark and mysterious theme is indeed a bit niche.

But everyone overlooked the power of Sherlock Holmes fans!

And also underestimated the impact of this song on them!

Before this, who would have thought that just relying on Sherlock Holmes fans could make "The Seventh Chapter of Night" top the charts?

What else needs to be taken into account?

Who cares if ordinary music fans aren't impressed?

As long as Xian Yu can satisfy Sherlock Holmes fans, that's enough!

More so.

Who said ordinary fans aren't impressed?

Ordinary fans are impressed too.

It's just that compared to Xian Yu's previous songs, ordinary fans might be a little less enthusiastic about this one.

But this still can't hide the fact that the quality of "The Seventh Chapter of Night" is excellent!

With these factors combined, this song finally topped the chart —

Xian Yu's six-wins-in-a-row, done and dusted!

And this was why Lin Yuan insisted on not changing the song!

On Earth.

When "The Seventh Chapter of Night" was released, despite the support from Sherlock Holmes fans, the impact was minimal.

After all, the majority of his fans are foreigners who don't usually listen to songs in Chinese.

Besides, the song was released long after "Sherlock Holmes" had ended.

But the Blue Star is different!

Xian Yu does have a connection with Sherlock Holmes.

Plus, "Sherlock Holmes" had just ended recently, the number of fans is terrifying.

Not to mention, there are no foreigners on Blue Star.

All the people in this world understand the songs in Mandarin.

With these conditions, are you still afraid that Sherlock Holmes fans won't fall into the trap?

Besides...

Xian Yu's popularity is there.

Everyone knows that chart performance isn't just about the song, it also depends on the popularity of the singer and the songwriter.

How popular is Xian Yu?

The concert last month said it all.

For some fans, as long as Xian Yu is the one singing, they would support unconditionally!

This group is also quite large!

More so.

Due to the formation of their worldview and other unique factors, the aesthetic appreciation of the Blue Star is higher than that of Earth.

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Therefore.

Even ordinary listeners can appreciate the excellence of "The Seventh Chapter of Night" more easily than Earth listeners.

These reasons combined have given Lin Yuan the confidence not to change his song!

The facts proved that Lin Yuan's judgment and analysis were not wrong.

Cough.

If Lin Yuan hadn't secretly prepared another song, ready to replace "The Seventh Chapter of Night" at any time, his operation would have been even sharper —

Indeed.

Someone may seem calm on the outside, but he's freaking out inside.

Chapter 693 Extremely High Professional Recognition

"Yes.

In order to secure his twelfth consecutive win, Lin Yuan is now being very steady.

So despite saying that he wouldn't change his song, he actually prepared a new one on the sly.

He was afraid that 'The Seventh Chapter of Night' would not meet his expectations.

It's a good thing he didn't have to use it; otherwise there would have been more complications.

By the time day broke, when people started to wake up and go to work, and reopened the season's ranking, 'The Seventh Chapter of Night' had already firmly secured its position at the top.

'Six-time champion!'

'Halfway to a twelve-time championship already.'

'Not even four Maestros could prevent Xian Yu from claiming the top spot this month.'

'Xian Yu has proved more than once that he has the abilities of an advanced, even top-tier, Maestro. After all, he once had a 300-round battle with Yang ZhongMing.'

'But it has to be said, the seasonal chart has become increasingly brutal.'

'Fish Papa's goal is a twelve-time championship, there will certainly be Maestros aiming to take him down.'

'It was very touch and go this time.' Enjoy new tales from My Virtual Library Empire

'Yes, if it weren't for the support of the Fu fans, perhaps this song wouldn't have had the success it does now.'

'It was quite a close victory.'

'...'

The netizens are discussing the results of the seasonal chart.

In the minds of many, 'The Seventh Chapter of Night' is a song that was forcibly pushed to the top by the Fu fans.

Like an official endorsement.

There was a big element of luck in reaching the top.

Without the Fu fans, perhaps the four Maestros could really have achieved their revenge.

However.

Just as this perspective was being formed.

Chen Hexuan, one of the four Maestros, surprisingly posted a status:

'I am happy to lose to 'The Seventh Chapter of Night'. If I had won, I would have felt uncomfortable because for music, audiences are a benchmark, and professional musicians have another set of standards. If the professionals in the industry voted on the seasonal chart, Xian Yu should have been the champion.'

The netizens paused for a moment.

Immediately after, the other three Maestros who released songs this month also spoke out.

An Xin: 'There's no such thing as luck, 'The Seventh Chapter of Night' should be number one. Even if it hadn't topped the seasonal chart, it would still be, in my mind, the deserved number one for this month. I don't like to use popularity as a standard to evaluate the quality of a song.'

Liu Rumei: 'Losing is losing. I wish Xian Yu continued success in the coming months. By the way, the arrangement of this song is one of the most outstanding works in recent years.'

Shen Lang: 'This is a highly professional piece of music that is so sophisticated it risks being too advanced for some. I have added it to my playlist. Maybe not everyone can appreciate this song, but among Xian Yu's works, this is my personal favourite.'

The netizens were shocked!

They thought the four Maestros would be upset, even disgruntled.

Because, the majority of the data contributing to the song's top place was provided by the Fu fans!

However, they didn't expect the four Maestros to praise 'The Seventh Chapter of Night' highly, without showing the slightest bit of resentment!

After all, netizens are not professional musicians.

Even if their aesthetic level or appreciation ability is good, their overall impression of a song can only be roughly divided into two categories:

'Good.'

'Bad.'

Only after seeing the four Maestros' evaluations did they realize that this song seemed to be quite amazing?

Indeed, this song is amazing.

Because with the voices of the four Maestros, even more music professionals gave their evaluations of this song, including some Maestros who had some interactions with Xian Yu:

'The one and only dark-themed song by Xian Yu, this song can be named a piece of art.'

——Yang ZhongMing

'If we don't talk about Xian Yu's piano composition, this song is probably the second one that makes me feel Xian Yu has the potential to reach godly status, after 'The Sea Laughs'.'

——Zheng Jing

'From all of Xian Yu's songs, 'Boastful' is my first favorite, this one comes second.'

——Wu Long

'Among all Xian Yu's songs, 'May You Always Be Well' ranks first in terms of lyrics, and this song stands second. Of course, this is for the Fu fans. If you're not a Fu fan, it's just okay.'

——Mike

Among these reactions,

The musician "Towards the North of the Sun", who previously thought Xian Yu released a song in June themed on Sherlock Holmes, also posted a status: "I was slapped in the face by Fish Papa. This lesson tells me that we mortals should not try to speculate the limits of these immortals. Fish Papa's reason for not changing the song must have been to pre-judge the reaction of Sherlock's fans.

As long as this song can sweep all of them, the ranking will not be bad. But I don't want to talk about rankings now, I just want to say, this song is mind-blowingly awesome, probably the kind that will be repeatedly analyzed by the music world across five continents!"

Netizens are a little stunned.

Is it really that incredible?

Once a certain trend forms, it's hard for people to swim against the current.

More people will just follow the trend.

If professionals are saying this song is awesome, and I can't see it, wouldn't that show my aesthetic is too low?

"Incredible!"

"Really Incredible!"

"Such powerful composition!"

"The arrangement is genius!"

"The more I listen, the more amazing I think it is!"

"..."

Goodness.

No one mentions how this song was crowned the champion by Sherlock's fans, everyone has become a fan of Fish, to the point where some people even say this is Xian Yu's most incredible song, somewhat overzealous.

Of course.

Some are mindlessly praising, and some are not.

Some professionals even made specific videos and articles, properly explaining to netizens the fantastic aspects of this song.

On Earth.

The initial reaction to "The Seventh Chapter of Night" when it was first released, was nothing exaggerated.

Having said that.

This may also have to do with the fact that all the other works in this album are utterly astonishing.

As everyone knows.

Director Zhou's first few albums are all gems.

Because the first few were so powerful, the many songs Director Zhou wrote afterwards have all been described as mediocre.

The explosive professional reputation of this song started with analysis from various GOAT.

Similar analyses can be found in abundance on various video websites.

Blue Star was not an exception.

For some musicians, popularity seemed to have little to do with the depth of their work, but they were certainly experts in analyzing how incredible "The Seventh Chapter of Night" was!

This only made the song even hotter!

The difference between this song and Xian Yu's other songs is that...

Xian Yu's other songs, such as "Red Roses" and the like, are often selected in karaoke lounges!

Only this one, which was the champion of the season, is almost never chosen in KTV.

It's just too difficult for ordinary people to sing!

The industry's analysis of the song's popularity problem, in the face of this fact, obtained compelling evidence.

However, most songs that have problems with popularity can hardly achieve good results.

This song is one of the rare exceptions.

And this was beyond what Lin Yuan had expected.

He didn't expect "The Seventh Chapter of Night" to experience another surge of popularity because of its rave reviews.

Is the soaring number of downloads really from people who love it?

If everyone really loves this song, would they love Director Zhou's next professional dark themed mega hit even more in the future?

That song is said to be an upgraded version of "The Seventh Chapter of Night".

Well.

No need to fuss about that now.

That song doesn't need to be brought up just yet.

What Lin Yuan needs to think about now is, should Shadow make a move?

And after Chu Kuang finishes "The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes", what should he write next?

Chapter 694: Trinity

Over the next few days, "the Seventh Chapter of Night" continued to hold its champion position steadfastly.

On the internet.

Various discussions revolving around the song hadn't ended yet.

Just when the discussions were at their peak, the official account of the Qin Continent's Literature and Art Association suddenly announced a piece of news:

"Today, Xian Yu is officially a rising first-line singer at Blue Star!"

In an instant!

Everyone's attention was drawn to it!

At this point, no one went on discussing "The Seventh Chapter of Night"!

Countless topics!

Suddenly shifted back to Xian Yu itself!

Accompanied by many netizens' amazement and surprise!

A hashtag called #XianYuBecomesFirstLineSinger# shot directly to the trending list!

Xian Yu has become a first-line singer!

He's plainly a songwriter, isn't he!

It's well-known that out of hobby or something, Xian Yu sings some songs on his own. And surprisingly, he has established himself as a genuine first-line singer!

Exactly.

Despite Xian Yu often competes with the singing kings and queens from various continents, being a first-line singer in the music industry is still a high-profile position that not just anyone can achieve!

Therefore.

Seeing Xian Yu becoming a first-line singer, many people's expressions became peculiar.

Probably even Xian Yu himself didn't expect that he would become a first-line singer in the music industry as a songwriter, did he?

"Fucking hell, Xian Yu becomes the first-line singer!"

"Consider it this way, Fish Papa is the best singer among all the composers in Blue Star, at the same time he is the best composer among all the singers?"

"Fish Papa: I'm obviously a composer, but I accidentally became a first-line singer."

"I fucking didn't realize at all that Fish Papa has sung so many popular songs unconsciously!"

"If Fish Papa is willing to sing more songs, wouldn't he pick up the title of King of Singing on the way?"

"So the old saying is indeed correct, Fish Papa doesn't need to aim for the twelve consecutive championships; if he wants to become Maestro, just prop himself up to be the King of Singing, and push Jiang Kui to be the Queen of Singing, right?"

"If you have to admit, it won't be difficult for Fish Papa to become the King of Singing, right?"

"After all, both Xian Yu and Jiang Kui have already reached the level of the King and Queen of Singing in terms of their strength. It's just that the sales of their personal performance works haven't caught up yet. Besides, Fish Papa is stronger than Jiang Kui, after he sings, he has significantly bested quite a few Kings and Queens of Singing!"

"What is called being awesome!"

"This is called being awesome!"

"He can obviously accomplish becoming Maestro in the easiest way, but he chose the hardest road!"

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Not to mention the netizens.

Even Lin Yuan himself didn't expect that he would unknowingly become a first-line singer.

Just as the netizens analyzed.

For Lin Yuan to become the King of Singing does not seem to be a difficult thing. He just needs to release more songs of his own performance.

In the entire music history of Blue Star.

No one has ever simultaneously held both the titles of Maestro and the King or Queen of Singing!

If Lin Yuan can accomplish this, he would probably also set a precedent in the music industry of Blue Star.

"Get the title of Maestro first, then turn myself into the King of Singing?"

This idea springs in Lin Yuan's heart.

He has always been clear about his own positioning.

Even after regaining his voice, Lin Yuan does not intend to be a singer as his main profession. He is still a composer.

But if he could create an interesting history, he wouldn't mind realizing it at some point, could this also be considered as a reward for his passion in singing?

In fact.

What shocked everyone was not that Xian Yu became a first-line singer, but how he did so effortlessly.

For other first-line singers, they could finally become a first-line singer through continuous efforts in their careers.

However, for Xian Yu to become a first-line singer seems to be just "by the way".

Exactly.

It's just "by the way".

Many have struggled for a lifetime but still could not reach their pursuit of goals, however, Xian Yu achieved this without anyone being aware of it.

...

Unexpected but reasonable.

This is probably the best summary of Xian Yu becoming a first-line singer.

The unexpected aspect is that Xian Yu wasn't seen to be particularly active as a singer, many even occasionally forgot about his identity as a singer.

Because his halo as Maestro Junior is too dazzling!

The reasonable aspect is that starting from "The Masked Singer", Xian Yu has sung quite a lot of songs on his own.

All these songs were hits!

The accumulated popularity and data together have established Xian Yu's status as a first-line singer.

"I suddenly had a terrifying thought!"

On the internet, a netizen posted: "Everyone knows that there are three ways to become Maestro, do you think Fish Papa could possibly achieve all of these at once, that is, he won the twelve consecutive championships, brought up the King and Queen of Singing, and also won an award from the Literature and Art Association for one of his works, becoming the first-ever three-in-one Maestro in history....."

This post instantly garnered a significant number of discussions.

"If he really makes this, can Fish Papa's status directly reach the level of Yang Zhongming?"

"No way!"

"Firstly, the twelve consecutive championships is still an unknown. This month's "The Seventh Chapter of Night" is clearly struggling to win the championship. Without the help of Fu Mi, Fish Papa might have overturned on this."

"Saying Fish Papa could bring up the King and Queen of Singing and become Maestro based on this is still possible."

"As for some of Fish Papa's works directly getting the recognition from the Literature and Art Association, the difficulty of this is just a tiny bit easier than Fish Papa making it through the twelve consecutive championships. The only universally accepted way to become Maestro now is to bring up two singers of the King and Queen level."

"Not talking about reaching Father Yang's level, as long as Xian Yu achieves three-in-one, he would directly make it to the top ten composers in Blue Star!"

"Though I am Xian Yu's fan, I can only say, this thought is too insane."

"Absolutely unrealistic."

"How many composers can do this in Blue Star as of now?"

"I just counted a bit, currently, only three people are being able to do this."

"Like Father Yang, currently with two-in-one, he has brought up several Kings and Queens of Singing, reaching the standard of Maestro, and he also has a song that received official recognition by the Literature and Art Association. But Father Yang has never won the twelve consecutive championships."

"I think it's because Father Yang has never tried to go for the twelve consecutive championships."

"Among the top ten composers in Blue Star, several of them should have the potential to hit twelve consecutive championships, it's just that they chose not to do so due to reasons like their personal energy."

"..."

This post indeed stirred up some attention.

But the ultimate conclusion is that Xian Yu can't do this.

This is not a matter of whether he has support or not anymore.

Purely because there are too few people in Blue Star who have helped him realize this.

Any person who can achieve this is at the top of the pyramid in the music industry of Blue Star!

Saying Lin Yuan, at his current age, can achieve this would be almost like a wild flight of fancy!

Everyone does acknowledge this Maestro Junior's strength...

But that doesn't mean everyone also acknowledges that Xian Yu's level has already reached the apex of Blue Star's music industry.

Chapter 695 Shadow is Going to Start Business

Lin Yuan also noticed this post.

The Three-in-one!

For him, this indeed seemed hard to achieve.

Handing over a King of Singing's song was not a difficult task.

But the journey towards twelve straight wins was only halfway through, and it was hard to predict what would happen next.

And the uncertainty was even higher for a single work to win the highest award for a single song, depending on the judges' tastes.

However, while it may be difficult, it's not impossible.

In the future, for the sake of reputation, Lin Yuan might try to achieve this goal.

With such thoughts in mind,

Lin Yuan stopped paying attention to the online trends.

As for becoming a first-tier singer, it didn't have any impact on Lin Yuan's life.

He had too many identities.

The priority of being a singer wasn't high.

There were still two pseudonyms waiting for work.

The first one was Chu Kuang, who had just finished "Detective Conan".

Chu Kuang had been writing for several years without any rest. According to usual practice, Lin Yuan should be considering Chu Kuang's next work.

But these days, Lin Yuan thought about giving Chu Kuang a break for a while.

As a result, it was time for Shadow to get to work.

Primarily because Shadow had been resting for too long.

If Shadow doesn't start working soon, his low-profile persona would become even stronger.

If this continues, everyone would probably forget that Shadow is one of the Three Bros.

Right.

Shadow's task was definitely still to create manga.

As for the theme of Shadow's next manga, Lin Yuan already had a general idea.

He wanted to draw a detective manga based on mystery elements!

However, when it came to the specific choice of manga, Lin Yuan was somewhat hesitant.

He had two works that were quite fitting.

One was a manga paying homage to "Detective Conan", also known as Grim Reaper Elementary Student!

Well, its real name was "Detective Conan".

The other was the relatively niche "The Kindaichi Case Files".

If considering only the breadth of the audience, he would definitely choose Conan.

But,

When considering the professionalism of deduction, "The Kindaichi Case Files" was more impressive.

The professionalism of deduction in this manga reached novel-level standards.

Many national films and TV detective cases have imitated Kindaichi's work.

Including the Celestial Dynasty's "The Young Detective" and various criminal police case-solving dramas.

Lin Yuan was torn by this choice.

If it came to making money, he would definitely look to Conan. However, Lin Yuan is no longer the penny-pinching young man he once was.

For Shadow, reputation is also vital!

However, Lin Yuan only wavered for ten minutes before finding his answer:

Only children make choices!

Grown-ups want it all!

He might as well draw both manga!

Popularity would come from Conan while reputation from the Kindaichi doing both jobs at the same time!

At most, he would just tire a little.

Although now Luo Wei and the studio assistants have improved a lot.

With their help, Lin Yuan could still take it easy.

Having decided on this,

Lin Yuan arranged for these two manga with the System.

In terms of pricing, Grim Reaper Elementary Student outclassed "The Kindaichi Case Files".

As expected.

Having a broad audience was crucial.

Then, Lin Yuan told Jin Mu about his plans to start a new manga.

Jin Mu laughed, "You finally remembered that you're also a manga artist!"

Lin Yuan: "..."

After teasing Lin Yuan for a bit, Jin Mu asked: "What kind of manga are you planning to make this time?"

"Mystery."

"Mystery?"

Jin Mu was stunned: "Mystery is a popular element in novels, but it's quite niche in manga..."

"Niche, you say?"

Lin Yuan looked at Jin Mu.

Jin Mu tapped his forehead: "Sorry, I was not thinking straight... If it's you, even a mystery manga could become popular. There shouldn't be any issue."

That's right.

Even after following Lin Yuan for so long, Jin Mu still subconsciously thought according to conventional rules.

But who is his boss?

Does his boss ever care about whether the theme is niche?

Even the coldest of themes always become popular under Lin Yuan's hands, don't they?

Take Chu Kuang's novels, for example, though they all have cold themes, they all end up creating a massive impact!

Even Xian Yu's songs have started featuring niche elements.

Who would have thought that the recent "The Seventh Chapter of Night," which had a dark and suspenseful style, would be a hit?

Even for Shadow, wasn't "King of the Net" a niche theme?

Yet, didn't it end up exploding in popularity?

What the boss excels at is turning something considered niche into something popular, leaving everyone dumbfounded.

As if he wouldn't be able to show off how powerful he is without making a niche theme popular.

Moreover, Shadow drawing a mystery manga!

What a great topic!

Following in Chu Kuang's footsteps!

Who knows, maybe he could even pull a "Paying Homage to Conan" stunt like Xian Yu did.

"That's decided then."

"Alright, what's the manga's name?"

"The Kindaichi Case Files."

Lin Yuan planned to release "The Kindaichi Case Files" first, and Grim Reaper Elementary Student would follow suit.

"Strange name."

Jin Mu commented, then pulled up his phone: "I'll contact Tribe Comics about it. Our contract should be upgraded once again."

Tribe Comics was the undisputed number one online manga site in Qin, Qi, Chu, Yan, and Han.

With the backing of Tribe, the site's traffic crushed other manga sites.

With Lin Yuan launching a new manga, Tribe Comics, a platform they've been working with for several years, was the default option unless something extraordinary happened.

Lin Yuan nodded.

While Jin Mu was contacting Tribe Comics, Lin Yuan summoned Luo Wei.

"You're going to draw a manga?!"

Luo Wei, upon learning of Lin Yuan's decision, started jumping excitedly. Only heaven knew how long she had been waiting for this moment!

"Yes, let's get to work."

As Lin Yuan spoke, he began designing the characters for "The Kindaichi Case Files" manga.

He was designing and conversing with Luo Wei at the same time.

Lin Yuan, with his master-level drawing skills and high artistic vision, wasn't satisfied with the original work's art.

It wasn't that the original work was bad.

The main reason was that the manga's original art style was too old-fashioned. It had the look of a very classic manga style.

Even when copying a manga, one couldn't just mindlessly copy everything. The art style still had to be more in line with the aesthetic tastes of the audience of this era...

The plot didn't need to be changed.

The original manga's plot was impressive.

After discussing for a while, Jin Mu suddenly walked into the drawing office:

"Tribe Comics has agreed to negotiate a contract upgrade with us. The contract upgrade shouldn't be a problem, but it seems like something happened over their side." Continue reading on My Virtual Library Empire

"What happened?"

"The person in charge at Tribe Comics has been replaced."

"Who was it before?"

"Han Jimei."

"Oh."

Lin Yuan recalled the female director.

Jin Mu lamented a little:

"Working with Han Jimei was quite pleasant. However, for some unknown reason, Han Jimei has left Tribe Comics..."

"That's their internal affairs."

Lin Yuan didn't care who their person in charge was; it was their internal matters.

"Yes."

Jin Mu nodded.

He was just making an offhand remark.

Chapter 696 Polarization

In the following few days.

Lin Yuan, along with Luo Wei and their assistants, worked on creating "The Kindaichi Case Files" in the studio.

One week later.

Jin Mu finalized a new contract with Tribe Comics which offered better terms.

After the contract negotiation was completed.

Jin Mu said to Lin Yuan, "Negotiations were not very smooth. The new manager of Tribe Comics is not as straightforward as Han Jimei, but thankfully they agreed to our terms in the end, so it all worked out for us..."

Lin Yuan nodded: "You've worked hard."

"I wouldn't say it was hard."

Jin Mu laughed, "The difficulty in reaching this contract was not just because Tribe Comics changed their manager, but also because Tribe Comics' influence has grown exponentially these few years. The top comic creators are all gathered on this site, they've almost monopolized the resources of comic authors.

Even if any author were to leave the site, they wouldn't have anywhere else to go, as they've taken all the traffic from other comic sites. It's precisely because of this that they dare to manipulate the authors."

This is quite normal.

Back when Tribe Comics was in its early stages, they were the ones seeking out comic creators.

Now, Tribe Comics leads the industry in traffic, and they dictate the market trends, which has caused the comic creators to seek them out instead.

Of course.

For comic creators like Shadow, the impact isn't particularly large.

Tribe Comics still values its top comic authors and is still willing to make concessions in contracts, though the size of these concessions is certainly smaller than before, and negotiations concerning the distribution of profits have become more difficult.

"It's normal."

Lin Yuan speaks up.

He feels this is because Shadow's influence isn't quite big enough yet.

If Shadow had the same industry influence as Chu Kuang and Xian Yu, then there would definitely not be any similar issues, as the terms Jin Mu proposes are practically never too harsh.

Chu Kuang and Xian Yu never had any problems concerning contract negotiations either.

Perhaps things will change once "Detective Conan" is released.

"The promotion will be launched tonight, we should confirm the exact release date for our comic."

"Let's do it tonight then."

Over the past few days, Lin Yuan, Luo Wei and the other assistants have created enough drafts for the early issues of the comic.

"All right."

Jin Mu continued to liaise with Tribe Comics.

Finally, the message that Shadow was releasing a new comic was officially announced on Tribe Comics' official platform:

[Teacher Shadow's first mystery comic "The Kindaichi Case Files" will be officially released on the Tribe Comics platform at 8 o'clock tonight. Please look forward to it!]

This sudden surprise hit Shadow's fans hard!

This lazy guy Shadow is finally releasing a new comic!

Since the end of "Death Note" last year, Shadow seemed to have disappeared, with no news of any new works—

Until today.

People have been asking online where Shadow had gone.

Why isn't Shadow drawing new comics?

Some of Shadow's fans even went to the comment section of Xian Yu and Chu Kuang, Shadow's two good bros, to ask why there had been no news from Shadow.

Unfortunately, neither Chu Kuang nor Xian Yu responded.

About this, Shadow's fans could only guess: Read latest stories on My Virtual Library Empire

Shadow's laziness must have kicked in again!

Don't forget that Shadow has a history of this!

For instance, even though he has exceptional drawing skills, the two comics before "Death Note" were not drawn earnestly.

Without the criticisms from the Chu Continent comic creators that year, he probably wouldn't have displayed his best drawing skills in classics like "Death Note", but instead, would have continued to halfheartedly create.

Never seen such a willful comic creator before!

Now seeing news of Shadow's new work, the fans finally breathe a sigh of relief:

"Looks like he's still alive."

"Among the three bros, Xian Yu is the most diligent one, but even Chu Kuang, whose reputation is so rotten, is very diligent in updating his novels. Shadow, however, always thinks about how to be lazy despite his immense talent."

"I almost thought he had switched his career to become an illustrator."

"Ever since 'Death Note' was completed, only when Chu Kuang was writing his novels could we see Shadow's name under the column of illustrators. And his drawing skills are still incredibly good."

"However, the theme of this new comic is really interesting!"

"It's a mystery comic! Are there any popular mystery comics in Blue Star?"

"There has never been a popular mystery comic."

"Would Shadow end up drawing a detective comic after having watched 'The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes'?"

"Is this some kind of collab with that old rascal Chu Kuang?"

"Xian Yu's 'The Seventh Chapter of Night' is the definition of a collab. At most, Shadow is just riding the coattails of the detective fad."

"I have to admit, even though I have no interest in detective stories, when I heard that Shadow was going to draw a detective comic for his next work, I was intrigued. After all, the quality of his comics is undeniable."

"Who would've thought that Shadow would also dip into detective stories? He's like the Chu Kuang of the comic world, mastering all themes!"

"In terms of their diverse range of themes, the Three Bros are all rather talented, looking forward to 'The Kindaichi Case Files!'"

"...."

Despite his nearly year-long hiatus, Shadow's popularity hadn't diminished in the slightest. The number of his followers was still high, given that his three prior comics were all successful.

In his fans' anticipation.

The comic was finally launched and published on schedule at 8 o'clock that evening!

Swipe swipe swipe!

Shadow's fans were the first to open up the comic!

On the 'Newly Popular' chart.

This comic, named 'The Kindaichi Case Files', quickly soared up to the top five!

This is the bonus that fame brings!

Regardless of the theme of the work, as long as the author is renowned, the minute it's published it can instantly attract numerous readers.

Not just readers.

Some fellow comic artists on the Tribe website, out of curiosity, opened up this comic as well.

If this was an ordinary detective comic, or if it was by another author, everyone would undoubtedly underestimate it due to its niche theme.

But the themes of Shadow's earlier comics weren't exactly popular either, yet they all became more successful than the last!

Given this, no one dared to make an offhand guess on whether this comic will be a hit...

However.

When the insiders, the comic artists, finished reading the initial content, their expressions changed almost in synchrony, becoming hesitant.

How should they put it?

This comic is amazing!

The storyline is of superior quality!

The detective aspect is rather hardcore!

But...

It seems like Shadow hasn't entirely broken away from the niche aura emitted by detective comics?

Or perhaps only partway?

Anyway, it feels different than what they had expected.

Maybe it's just because the plot hasn't fully unfolded yet?

The fellow comic artists were lost in thought.

The comment section of the comic.

It was bustling with activity.

But the two most popular posts with the highest reply rate revealed two drastically different reader attitudes.

The first view:

"Shadow is indeed badass as always. Just judging by the opening chapter, this is definitely the best detective comic I've ever read. The detective aspect gives a taste of orthodox mystery, the plot setting is extremely precise, the artwork style is impressively cool as always, and the first story arc is full of twists and turns. Looking forward to the future developments!"

The second view:

"The artwork style undoubtedly reigns supreme, as does the detective aspect. But somehow I just don't enjoy detective stories—I tried to read it but I felt only mildly drawn to it. I'll wait and see if there will be any interesting twists later."

The reviews weren't bad at all!

However, the two divergent attitudes in the readers' comments were rather thought-provoking.

At that time, Lin Yuan was sitting in front of his computer, not at all surprised by the commentary.

This comic is best suited for building up reputation and earning acclaim.

If he wants a hype explosion, he still needs 'Detective Conan.'

The story of 'Grim Reaper Elementary Student' is perfect for family entertainment. Even those who do not like detective stories can enjoy it, because the character design and story threshold of Conan are very low, and the badass atmosphere and satisfactions are quite popularized.

"I'll roll out Conan in a while."

As he switched off the computer, Lin Yuan had already come to a decision.

Chapter 697: Applauded but not Popular

In the days to follow, "The Kindaichi Case Files" continued to be serialized, with more and more new content coming out.

On the Starry Sky website.

The rating was out.

The manga called "The Kindaichi Case Files" had unbelievably achieved a rare rating of 9.5 points!

The reviews were through the roof!

It was the highest-rated of all the manga Shadow had released, with readers becoming more and more satisfied with its plot twist. Even many people claimed that "The Kindaichi Case Files" was the best quality detective manga among all Blue Star Comics!

But what was odd...

Despite being the best-reviewed of all Shadow's published works, this manga's popularity didn't seem to explode in relation to its ratings and reviews!

On the contrary.

While Kindaichi's reputation continued to rise, the popularity of this manga actually dropped slightly from the first day?

Yes, it was dropping!

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On the new work chart, Kindaichi gradually slipped from the first day's top position to the second.

The one to surpass Shadow was a new work from a less famous mangaka.

It looked like the third place was closing in on Kindaichi fast, maybe it could push Kindaichi to third place in a few days?

The situation was now clear.

Shadow's new manga was critically acclaimed but not popular among readers!

On one hand, there were waves of positive reviews and ratings, but on the other hand, there was a daily decline in rankings and popularity!

In the past, this would have been an impossible situation.

No one ever thought Shadow's manga could end up being critically acclaimed but not popular!

The industry finally stopped hesitating and doubting:

"After all, detective stories are niches. Even Shadow cannot save this category's low popularity and attention."

"No matter how good the reviews are, insufficient sales still make it pointless!"

"This time Shadow chose the wrong theme."

"Shadow thought he could draw a niche detective story and readers would still be interested, but in the end, he has proved to be overly arrogant."

"The artwork is really good, the plot is really good, everyone acknowledges that this manga is excellent, but such a theme is destined to not be universally popular."

"The reason for the high rating is that those who don't like this manga have given up."

"The high score is because those who gave up on this manga couldn't give it bad reviews, because everyone knows the work is actually great, from the plot and artwork you can tell, like a director's heartfully made movie, the scenes and shots are top-notch, but unfortunately not everyone finds it intriguing."

"Shadow flopped."

"..."

In fact, this achievement is pretty decent for an average mangaka.

But for a manga artist of Shadow's caliber, this result is absolutely a flop.

In terms of popularity comparison.

Out of Shadow's four manga, the most popular one is "Death Note".

The least popular one is Kindaichi.

Even though Kindaichi's reputation surpasses "Death Note".

Almost a year without a new manga.

The long wait did not cause Shadow's fans to leave.

However, because "The Kindaichi Case Files" was of a niche and unpopular genre, it led to a loss of Shadow's fans.

Considering this.

Those readers and fans who like this manga even started to worry:

Would Shadow end up cutting short "The Kindaichi Case Files"?

Manga readers were well-experienced.

They knew it well!

Some manga artists, when facing disappointing sales of new works, often stopped the unsuccessful work to start a new one.

Especially a manga artist like Shadow who became super popular right out of the gate!

The previous three manga each more popular than the last, suddenly the fourth manga was underperforming, successful in reviews but unpopular among readers.

Under such a huge drop, could Shadow withstand such a blow?

...

Of course, Lin Yuan could withstand such a blow.

Whether it was a flop or not, "The Kindaichi Case Files" was clearly a popular manga.

It's just that everyone subconsciously benchmarked the popularity of this manga with "Death Note".

Compared to his previous work, the performance of this manga was not satisfactory.

But in the whole manga circle, this manga was still very successful, not to mention that the reviews were so positive!

Anyway, Lin Yuan had no plans to stop this manga.

It would be too hurtful to those readers who truly loved this manga.

He'd just keep going with the serialization.

As a matter of fact.

Not only the readers were worried about Shadow's serial absenteeism.

Seeing the success of "The Kindaichi Case Files", Luo Wei and Jin Mu also tested Lin Yuan's attitude:

"Have you considered starting a new project?"

Lin Yuan nodded.

Jin Mu's face changed slightly.

Luo Wei hastily asked, "What about 'The Kindaichi Case Files' then?"

Lin Yuan replied matter-of-factly, "Continue to release."

Jin Mu breathed a sigh of relief: "Then you are still considering starting a new project..."

Lin Yuan countered, "Who said we can only work on one project at a time?"

Jin Mu was shocked.

Luo Wei was also taken aback:

"Two at once?"

Lin Yuan laughed, "That's the idea. Anyway, 'The Kindaichi Case Files' will definitely not be cut."

"..."

The expressions on Luo Wei and Jin Mu's faces became strange.

Just as the two were about to say something, Jin Mu's phone rang.

Jin Mu went out to answer the call.

After the call, Jin Mu returned to the office, his face looked somewhat uneasy.

Luo Wei asked, "What happened?"

Jin Mu snapped, "Tribe Comics hinted at us abandoning 'The Kindaichi Case Files' to start a new project."

Luo Wei was drawing, her hand paused suddenly, she no longer wanted to continue drawing. She spoke coldly:

"Didn't Tribe Comics always refrain from meddling with authors' affairs? The contract also stipulates that the website should not interfere with the author's creation. Their hint to cut off the comic is very unfair to readers who are waiting for updates!"

Luo Wei still loved 'The Kindaichi Case Files' very much.

From her personal feelings, she absolutely did not want to abandon this comic. Although this piece did not perform as well as Shadow's previous three works, it was nowhere near discontinuation.

Lin Yuan also frowned slightly.

Tribe Comics had somewhat overstepped their boundaries.

Jin Mu sighed, "They understand the contract, so it was just a suggestion. I've already declined it. This is pure capitalist behavior. They think we can make more money by starting a new project than 'The Kindaichi Case Files'."

Luo Wei pursed her lips: "But they can't just think about making money, they have to respect their own users."

"They have a new person in charge..."

Jin Mu was helpless.

If Han Jimei were still in charge of Tribe Comics, this would not have happened.

This new manager is not very capable.

Lin Yuan suddenly said, "Then let's start a new project and communicate with them."

"Are we really going to take on two projects?"

Both Jin Mu and Luo Wei were somewhat worried.

Lin Yuan nodded.

Luo Wei said, "Then the update speed of both comics will be affected."

Jin Mu added, "Taking on two projects at the same time could also lead to insufficient creative energy, making it easy to pull each other down and not focus on one comic."

You must know, 'The Kindaichi Case Files', this kind of comic is very plot driven.

If there isn't enough time to brainstorm, the quality of the plot may suffer.

"It's okay."

Lin Yuan had already made up his mind.

Jin Mu has always had no power to sway the decisions of his boss, so he did not continue to insist:
"What is the theme of the new project?"

Cuisine?

Competition?

Or continue following the successful path, drawing a cunningly-crafted intellectual comic like
"Death Note"?

"Mystery."

Lin Yuan spoke.

Poof!

Luo Wei almost fell over.

Jin Mu was also utterly confused, "What?"

Lin Yuan had to repeat himself: "Mystery."

Luo Wei: "..."

Jin Mu: "..."

The new project is still a mystery comic?

Teacher Shadow, is it us or is there something wrong with you?

Chapter 698: He Said He Doesn't Accept

Tribe Comics.

In the meeting room.

The new manager, Ling Kong, stated with a stern face, "Tribe Comics is currently the highest-ranking website in the industry, but I don't want us to grow complacent as we still have plenty of room to grow. The issue I want to raise today is that our company's contracts with top writers are too lenient.

I'm not suggesting that my predecessor did a poor job; quite the contrary, they did an admirable job attracting over ninety percent of the industry's outstanding comic artists to our site under the most favourable terms, making our site grow rapidly. However, now that our site has developed and we can provide better resources for the authors, shouldn't they contribute more?

This is where my predecessor fell short... Business isn't run on goodwill, and no company can sustain itself on it alone..."

No one speaks up.

The new manager began drastic changes in the company's system soon after taking over, showing a clear trend towards "de-Han-jimeization".

This was only to be expected.

The new manager didn't want to be seen as picking low hanging fruit at Tribe Comics.

Eager to make the website better, he wanted to prove that he was more suitable for his current position than Han Jimei.

After the opening remarks.

Ling Kong turned to his deputy editor on the right, "How did the negotiation with Shadow go?"

The deputy editor replied with difficulty, "They are unwilling to cut the 'Kindaichi Case Files' in half."

Ling Kong frowned, "Didn't you make our point clear? I can offer them the best contract, but Shadow's current work does not match his treatment. I need him to deliver greater value to justify the company's concessions in the contract."

"I made it clear..."

The deputy editor forced a smile, "But Teacher Shadow doesn't listen to our company... Ms. Han... cough, Han Jimei also once stated that Tribe Comics would give Shadow the greatest creative freedom..."

"What I hate the most is the disobedience of my subordinates. Do you all understand now?"

Ling Kong scanned the audience, "My predecessor spoiled these comic artists, especially the top-tier ones. If Shadow wants to continue drawing, he can do so, but his promotion power will be reduced until he realizes that his achievement doesn't justify his treatment. My philosophy, I believe, is clear to you all: reputation is worthless compared to sales.

This will also be the philosophy of our website from now on."

"Well..."

The deputy editor began, "But Shadow has agreed to start a new comic."

"A double launch?"

The other editors expressed surprise.

One of them hesitated a little and said,

"If Teacher Shadow has decided to do a double launch, it means that although he hasn't completely followed your requirements, he has still made a concession. In his previous three comics, Teacher Shadow never made any concessions to the company..."

Many others nodded in agreement.

Many seasoned editors who had been there during Han Jimei's tenure were present.

These senior editors knew that Shadow had a strong stance in his interactions with Tribe Comics.

Before the release of "Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma", Han Jimei had tried to persuade Shadow to change his mind, as the market for food comics was tough.

But Shadow flatly ignored her advice.

This time, Shadow's willingness to do a double launch was indeed a rare concession.

"Double launch, huh?"

Ling Kong's face softened slightly, "It seems he's being sensible. If that's the case, then we can work with it. These comic artists are not unlike snobbish literati; they cherish their pride, which I understand and can give them. If only pride could be used to pay for meals... What's the theme of the new work?"

"Detective story..."

The voice of the deputy editor was faint.

"What?"

Ling Kong thought he had heard wrong.

"Detective story..."

The deputy editor's voice became even fainter, like a mosquito, but everyone in the room heard it clearly.

The audience's faces changed instantly.

Ling Kong's eye twitched drastically.

Are they messing with me?

Continuing with detective stories?

Isn't it obvious that the "Kindaichi Case Files" isn't doing well because it's a "detective story"?

This niche is too small!

And yet his new work also dwells on detective stories, as if he wants to prove something with his obstinacy!

"I think I can understand Shadow's choice. He is very accomplished. His resolve to continue drawing detective comics must be because he has learned from the lessons of 'Kindaichi Case Files'..."

The editor who had previously said that Shadow had made a concession bravely spoke.

"Shut up!"

Ling Kong interrupted him coldly. "Either change the theme or decrease the contractual terms. Besides... forget it, I will personally take over the negotiation this time!"

"But..."

"I don't want to repeat myself!"

Ling Kong spoke coldly, "You call this a concession? This is a provocation! He's not trying to solve the problem, but walking further down the problematic path!"

Everyone fell silent.

Vaguely, everyone could hear Ling Kong growling the word "mad".

The office became even quieter.

The leadership styles of the two managers of Tribe Comics were worlds apart.

Han Jimei was lenient and cared about goodwill. She got along well with the comic artists.

The downside was that she sometimes cared too much about goodwill, treating the comic artists more favourably than the industry standard.

Ling Kong put profit first and cared about rules.

His collaboration with comic artists was purely business. There was no room for favouritism.

In fact...

The previous department under Ling Kong's management was very successful.

He was not a weak person who replaced Han Jimei due to company ties.

If he had any flaws?

The whole company knew that Ling Kong was the kind of person who would stop at nothing to achieve his goals. This was how Han Jimei had lost her job.

However...

There were even larger reasons behind it.

Inside the Shadow Studio.

Luo Wei turned to a group of assistants:

"The updates for 'Kindaichi Case Files' need to speed up. Everyone needs to contribute to the drawing. As you've been learning from Teacher Shadow for so long, you should have developed the capability to draw independently by now. Meanwhile, we need to dig another hole for a new project..."

The group responded with excitement!

This brings us to the everyday life of the studio.

Lin Yuan is a manga creator and chief artist, as well as Luo Wei's teacher, regularly teaching her traditional Chinese painting.

Apart from traditional Chinese painting, Lin Yuan also teaches Luo Wei how to draw manga.

Under the Teacher's Halo, Luo Wei's manga drawing skills improved rapidly, to the point where she is now worthy of substituting for Lin Yuan.

In his downtime, Lin Yuan also teaches other studio assistants how to draw manga.

After activating the Teacher's Halo, and years of instruction, his assistants' drawing skills have vastly improved!

Everyone is now eager to put their skills to the test!

God knows to what extent they have learned from Teacher Shadow!

There's a reason why Lin Yuan is doing this, of course.

He has many manga to release in the future, and it's too much for one person, even with Luo Wei's help, so he must train more helpers.

Under normal circumstances, Lin Yuan wouldn't be able to produce a group of master painters in just a few years.

No one can!

But Lin Yuan has the Teacher's Halo, an unorthodox external aid!

So now, every assistant in the studio possesses an impressive level of drawing skills!

If these little helpers from Shadow Studio were to go out there, even if they don't independently create manga, they'd at least be more than capable of being excellent pure painters!

If these people were to collaborate on a creation, the rate of production would be unprecedented!

In other words,

Lin Yuan's studio boasts a Heavenly King level lineup of artists that no other manga studio in Blue Star could match!

This small studio!

Nestled within it are a group of artists who, under Lin Yuan's Teacher's Halo, have quietly honed their skills for several years without making their debut yet!

And now,

These assistants are about to make their debut!

Double publication is not the limit!

What about three, four, or five issues at once!

If Lin Yuan can keep up with the plot and storyboard,

Even if more series are launched, Lin Yuan can still maintain control!

As for Lin Yuan, would the plot and storyboard be a problem?

For other manga artists this may require deep reflection, but in Lin Yuan's mind, these are already settled!

With a slight smile on his face,

Lin Yuan watches Luo Wei rally the others.

Meanwhile,

Jin Mu receives another phone call: "It's from Tribe Comics."

Saying this, Jin Mu goes to the next room to take the call.

Lin Yuan, while watching Luo Wei interact with the assistants, leans in the doorway and listens in for a while.

The discussion between Jin Mu and the other party seems quite unpleasant.

Faintly, Lin Yuan hears the man on the phone shouting at Jin Mu: "You third-class agent don't understand human speech! You're not worthy of dealing with me, let your boss speak to me before I lose my temper!"

"Alright."

Jin Mu keeps a straight face, as if everything is normal, and looks at Lin Yuan: "Boss, the new leader of Tribe Comics wants to speak with you."

"Hmm."

Lin Yuan takes the phone: "This is Shadow."

"Teacher Shadow, I am Ling Kong, the new supervisor of Tribe Comics, I have some ideas about your new manga..."

"No need."

Lin Yuan calmly says: "I've decided to cancel the cooperation with Tribe Comics."

"What?"

The other side was stunned.

Jin Mu's expression changed as well. Your next journey awaits at My Virtual Library Empire

Luo Wei and the assistants looked at each other in confusion.

What did Teacher Shadow just say?

He's cancelling the collaboration with Tribe Comics?

Lin Yuan's tone remained steady:

"About the current manga collaboration, we can terminate the contract."

"Shadow!"

The voice on the other end become cold: "You're not thinking clearly now. We can sit down and talk this over. I respect you, I hope you can respect me."

"I do respect you."

Lin Yuan says: "I hope you can learn to respect 'The Kindaichi Case Files', respect your website users, and most importantly, respect my agent."

"..."

The other end was silent for a few seconds, his voice became very low and restrained: "There may have been some unpleasantness, but I can personally apologize to him later. There's no need for harsh words like termination. If you leave Tribe Comics, you will have nowhere to go. The market is controlled by us, but our website also needs talents like you. It's a win-win situation.

Don't let anger cloud your judgment and ruin your future."

Combining threats and favors, he seemed well-prepared.

Jin Mu, hearing the voice in the phone, frantically waved at Lin Yuan.

"Oh, he says: He doesn't accept your apology."

Looking at Jin Mu's gestures, Lin Yuan displayed an understanding expression, then curtly hung up the phone.

The studio fell silent.

Luo Wei and the assistants were careful even with their breathing.

Could Teacher Shadow really be breaking off with Tribe Comics?

Lin Yuan's expression remained calm, but everyone could sense a fearsome undercurrent of tension in the room, and no one dared to speak!

Jin Mu was taken aback!

Big brother!

Blood brother!

I'm not refusing the apology!

My hand gesture was to fucking tell you not to break off with Tribe Comics!

Chapter 699 Full Blockade

The atmosphere was chillingly cold.

It felt as if the temperature in the studio's lobby had dropped to freezing point.

After an unknown length of time, a sudden wail echoed through the lobby:

"I accepted the apology. He is a high-ranking member of the Tribe and he humbled himself to apologize to a small agent like me. What makes you think I wouldn't accept it?"

Chuckling!

The stifling atmosphere was abruptly broken, and Luo Wei couldn't help but laugh out loud.

Lin Yuan said, "Isn't that equivalent to refusing?"

While talking, Lin Yuan imitated Jin Mu and made a dismissive gesture.

"Hahahaha..."

The other assistants also couldn't help but laugh.

What level of understanding does Teacher Shadow have?

Jin Mu stomped his foot: "I clearly told you not to fall out with them. I see through you now! This trick doesn't work on me, I won't be taken in by you again!"

Jin Mu's eyes suddenly lit up with understanding!

Lin Yuan: "..."

Perhaps his performance this time wasn't convincing enough?

Lifting his eyelids.

Lin Yuan looked past Jin Mu to everyone else: "Do you accept the apology?"

"We don't."

Luo Wei responded with a smile.

The assistants turned to look at Jin Mu, then back at Lin Yuan. The room was filled with voices, all uniformly ringing out:

"We don't accept it!"

Jin Mu's eyes reddened for a moment: "Thanks a lot, you guys. Just look at yourselves, so capable. Just wait until you have no place to eat. Now that we can't cooperate with the Tribe, where are we going to publish our future comics?"

"Don't listen to him."

Looking past Jin Mu.

Lin Yuan turned to the assistants: "If there's no way to afford meals, I will support you guys."

"Long live Teacher Shadow!"

Everyone began laughing and cheering.

At first, when they heard about the fall-out between Shadow and the Tribe, everyone had been taken aback, clearly understanding the seriousness of the issue.

But they quickly regained their composure!

Too small!

Too narrow-minded!

What's there to be afraid of?

Teacher Shadow is Xian Yu after all!

This was a secret that only members of the studio knew!

Xian Yu and Shadow are the same person. When you hang out with such a demon, are you afraid of not having food to eat?

Don't make this kind of brainless joke.

Moreover, all the assistants present had learnt from Lin Yuan.

In their hearts, they had long ceased to see themselves as merely comic assistants.

Compared to this identity, they felt more like disciples of Teacher Shadow!

Just like Luo Wei!

Shadow taught them to draw, enabling them to reach a level of painting skill they might never have achieved otherwise!

From an emotional and rational perspective.

Shadow is their teacher!

The bond between teacher and disciple was very important on Blue Star!

Being a disciple means they must follow wherever the teacher goes!

Of course.

This also has to do with the group's inflated confidence. The assistants, having learned a lot from Lin Yuan, have become quite arrogant.

Heaven is the greatest.

Earth comes second.

They rank third.

Heaven represents Shadow, earth represents Luo Wei. At least in the minds of these comic assistants, this was the ranking. The people in the studio had long been boasting that they were unbeatable.

When things came to this, everyone began to comfort Jin Mu, filled with righteous indignation.

Our studio is so awesome, why would our agent be bullied by outsiders?

There's no reason for it!

Lin Yuan also comforted him with a smile: "There are so many comic websites, we can just find any other platform."

"Exactly!"

Luo Wei said: "With the reputation of our Teacher Shadow, even if we go to other websites, we can still thrive!"

"In my opinion, the reason why Tribe Comics is the number one website in the industry is because of us!"

A comic assistant with hands on the hips: "Once we leave, they won't be able to maintain that number one status!"

"That's right!"

The assistant next to him chimed in: "Wherever we go, that website becomes number one!"

Luo Wei: "..."

Who gave you guys this courage? You think you are invincible?

Jin Mu: "..."

Since when did these little assistants become so inflated?

Lin Yuan: "..."

Even I don't dare to say these things.

Oh.

If I try hard, it seems I might dare. Stay connected with My Virtual Library Empire

Lin Yuan smiled: "Jin uncle, please go ahead with the contract termination negotiations with Tribe Comics."

-"Dealing with your shit again."

Jin Mu said grumpily, but an unusual emotion was stirring in his heart.

He knew who he would never betray in his life.

...

In the afternoon.

Lin Yuan entered Jin Mu's office.

It seemed like Jin Mu was on the phone with a lawyer.

Seeing Lin Yuan, he temporarily hung up the phone and said helplessly: "They are pulling their weight. Ling Kong was furious with us, and immediately threatened to block you in the company – Ling Kong is the guy we were just talking to."

Lin Yuan laughed: "Us?"

Jin Mu rolled his eyes: "Should I directly say that he was infuriated by you?"

Lin Yuan asked back: "Aren't you angry?"

Jin Mu dodged the question: "I have asked around. This Ling Kong is not simple, he has strong business abilities and also holds power within the Tribe headquarters, but no one knows the specifics. I suspect he is the heir to a key figure within the Tribe. You should be aware of how large the scale of the Tribe is, and our opponent is not a small deal.

When he was willing to apologize to you and me, I knew this guy was ruthless."

"But the Tribe doesn't know how big Shadow's operation is."

Lin Yuan said casually: "As for the termination, if they dare not follow the rules, Xian Yu and Chu Kuang will terminate all cooperation with the Tribe in the future."

"The stakes are too high, will Silver Blue and Starlight agree?"

"Under normal circumstances, it won't come to that."

This is just a normal job-jumping for a website comic artist, Lin Yuan didn't think the matter was a big deal.

However, Lin Yuan still underestimated the seriousness of the matter.

That evening.

The Tribe Comics made a move!

Shadow's "Death Note" was blocked, the reason being that its value orientation was incorrect and had been reported by parents.

Immediately after, "Food Wars: Shokugeki no Soma" was blocked, the reason being that it was involved in adult content, and there were numerous lascivious scenes reported by parents.

Then the ongoing "The Kindaichi Case Files" was blocked, the reason being that the content was too terrifying, and it was reported by parents.

Finally "King of the Net" was also blocked.

This time the reason was that parents reported that their children's sexual orientation had become abnormal after reading the comics?

Could they find a more far-fetched reason?

In short, all of Shadow's works were blocked!

Shadow's official account on Tribe Comics could no longer be found, as if there was no such person at Tribe Comics!

To kill one thousand, self-harm eight hundred!

This was the decision of Tribe Comics!

Keep in mind, these comics of Shadow's have always been making money for Tribe Comics, and both sides are beneficiaries. Now Tribe Comics is desperate to cut off Shadow's sources of income, even if it means losing their share!

Banishment!

Ling Kong did what he said he would!

This was a full-scale ban from Tribe Comics!

This was a power crush from capitalism against individual influence. Anyway, Tribe Comics could afford the loss, but most of Shadow's income came from these comics!

In a flash!

The entire internet was shocked by this sudden move, nobody expected that a good person like Shadow would be banned outright by Tribe Comics overnight!

Chapter 700: Breaking Off

"What the hell is happening?"

Shadow's ban came as sudden as his unexpected announcement of a new comic release!

If the last time was a surprise, then this time it is outright shocking!

So unexpected!

Many people thought it was an April Fool's joke!

When more and more people went to Tribe Comics to search for Shadow, and found no results, the internet went into a complete meltdown!

"He's really been banned!"

"What happened?"

"Tribe Comics has gone mad, they've banned Shadow. After all, Shadow was a top comic artist!"

"Even if Shadow's new comic didn't perform well, they don't have to do this, right?"

"Did they dump Shadow because his new comics didn't do well, hence lost his value to them?"

"It's already trending on Tribe!"

"Hey, where's the trending news?"

"Where did the news about Shadow getting banned by Tribe go?"

"..."

Netizens noticed that the news of Shadow's ban quickly reached the top of the trending topics, only to disappear immediately after.

The topic that replaced it was about some female celebrity's affair.

Damn!

We don't care about the female celebrity's affair!

We only care about why Shadow was banned!

The reasons given for the removal of those comics are absurd, especially the one for "King of the Net"!

It's evident that it was a ploy by the Tribe officials.

And then...

In the midst of the uproar, Tribe Comics released a statement:

"Due to unsatisfactory contract conditions for both parties, Teacher Shadow has volunteered to terminate the contract with our company, which we have agreed to. From now on, Tribe Comics and Teacher Shadow are no longer connected in any way."

As soon as the statement was released, Shadow's fans were outraged!

If they terminated the contract, then why did they remove Shadow's comics? What's the meaning of this?

Were they reported?

In this day and age, which comic hasn't been reported?

As long as it's not a matter of principle, this kind of issue is obviously easy to handle!

But obviously, Tribe doesn't care about these disputes.

To be precise, it's not that they don't care at all.

There is a comment in the comment section of the statement.

Someone claiming to be an insider at Tribe Comics commented:

"The company told me to avoid this controversy, but I can't help it anymore. Shadow's manager is too greedy. He made very unfair contract demands. That agent even dared to swear at us when the negotiation reached a deadlock. I admit that Teacher Shadow's comics are great, but I strongly disagree with the rest.

I don't believe that the manager's actions behind the scenes don't reflect Teacher Shadow's interest, so canceling the cooperation might be the best outcome. I will surely get scolded for this comment by my superiors, but I don't care. Shadow's fans can scold me if they want!"

This is inside information?

Many netizens were puzzled when they saw this comment.

Was it because Shadow was brooking controversy?

Or was his agent causing trouble?

Things started getting confusing.

Nobody was sure about how much truth there was in Tribe Comics' words.

This kind of dispute is always unresolved.

Meanwhile, inside Shadow Studio.

When Lin Yuan saw this comment, he directly gave Jin Mu a thumbs up.

"Damn!"

Jin Mu was upset: "I can't believe how awesome I turned out to be!"

Me, a small manager, dared to swear at the people from Tribe Comics, really?

They really know how to shift the blame!

It was actually I who was verbally abused by Ling Kong!

If I had recorded it on my phone at that time...

Of course, there were no recordings.

Jin Mu had rather go all out in the melee, publishing an article to explain that it's smearing from competitors, while also accusing Tribe Comics of domineering behavior.

After doing all this, Jin Mu turned around and found Lin Yuan was also logged into Tribe.

"What are you doing?"

"Nothing."

"Let me see."

Jin Mu took a closer look and was shocked.

Lin Yuan just posted a status update on Shadow's account.

The content of the post read: "Effective immediately, I am permanently exiting Tribe and terminating all cooperation."

"Calm down!"

Jin Mu started to panic: "Quickly delete this post, we have indeed severed ties with Tribe Comics, but Tribe Comics is just a division under Tribe. We don't have to pick a fight with Tribe as a whole!"

"Too late."

Lin Yuan remained calm. Jin Mu wanted to keep things within control, but he knew this was not just about the grudge against Tribe Comics.

Obviously.

It is a verbal war where both parties defended their points.

Especially after seeing Shadow announcing his break with Tribe, public opinion was already in confusion!

Although Shadow's influence isn't comparable to Chu Kuang and Xian Yu, he is still a well-known name in the comic industry.

The conflict between him and Tribe Comics became the headline in major media outlets for a time!

But...

As public opinion spread.

Netizens still stand with Shadow after all.

The fact that Tribe Comics blocked Shadow's comics and removed Shadow's related hot searches is indisputable.

This domineering capital behavior is something that everyone detests.

The fact that Shadow has been suppressed is also undeniable.

No matter how you look at it, Shadow seems to be at a huge disadvantage in this situation!

"Shadow is so defiant!"

"Who would have thought he would want to quit the Tribe!"

"Tribe Comics is the industry's top comic website. If Shadow is banned by the Tribe, where else can he go?"

"He can only continue his comics on some smaller websites."

"But the problem is, those small websites can't handle the traffic, and you can't expect them to depend on Shadow's single comic to generate popularity."

"What comic website relies on a single comic artist to survive?"

"That's unrealistic. Even if the comic is super popular, it won't work. The Tribe has all the popular comics on them!"

"Moreover, Shadow's new comic isn't even that explosive. In fact, it's rather disappointing, not as popular as his previous works!"

"So, is Shadow done for?"

"Now that I think about it, I totally distrust Tribe Comics. Unless there was a special reason, why would Shadow willingly leave Tribe Comics? This choice brings no benefit to him at all!"

"All one can say is an individual's power is truly limited when faced with the might of capital."

"Indeed."

"Shadow's influence, after all, can't contend with a behemoth like the Tribe."

"..."

Seeing Shadow making such a firm decision, the public is pessimistic about his future.

At this moment.

Someone suddenly said, "Isn't Shadow good friends with Chu Kuang and Xian Yu? I wonder what reaction they will have."

The friendship of the Three Bros is well-known.

They have stood together on numerous occasions!

But this time, they wouldn't be able to stand together, right?

"While Xian Yu and Chu Kuang may not care about Tribe Comics, behind Tribe Comics is the Tribe itself!"

"The power this capital can disseminate is too terrifying!"

"We can't play the moral card here. Regardless of how close they are, Chu Kuang and Xian Yu can't directly sever ties with the Tribe!"

"Yes, the stakes involved are just too huge!"

"Are you kidding? Xian Yu and Chu Kuang won't break off relations with the Tribe for Shadow's sake. There are so many interests involved. And they have companies behind them too. Do you think those companies would agree?"

"I fear people would say that Xian Yu and Chu Kuang aren't being loyal if they don't go against the Tribe. This, this isn't something to be taken lightly!"

"..."

As netizens were discussing, they subconsciously turned to Xian Yu and Chu Kuang's Tribe accounts.

Then, all of a sudden!

Countless people almost popped their eyes out!

Xian Yu: "Effective immediately, permanently leaving the Tribe and terminating all co-operations."

Chu Kuang: "Effective immediately, permanently leaving the Tribe and terminating all co-operations."

At this moment!

Everyone's blood rushed to their heads, and they couldn't help but tremble slightly!

Fuck!

The break has happened!

It really happened!

Chu Kuang and Xian Yu have actually simultaneously announced a split with the Tribe. The content of their announcements is exactly the same as Shadow's!

Boom!

The music circle exploded!

The novel world also exploded!

The comic world is boiling over!

A terrifying wave of shock swept the country, and Xian Yu and Chu Kuang's posts directly shook all media outlets!

This is Xian Yu and Chu Kuang we're talking about, after all!

These two actually chose to stand or fall with Shadow in the face of such a terrifying behemoth, seemingly unconcerned with the huge impact this event will cause!

This is insane!

The Tribe must be crying!

They never expected that by offending a small character like Shadow, they simultaneously dragged two prehistoric monsters from different fields into this battlefield!

In fact, neither did the netizens!

This is not just about deep feelings!

The Three Bros, if you provoke one, they all go berserk!

For Xian Yu and Chu Kuang, the loss brought by breaking with the Tribe is huge!

But for the Tribe, the loss from severing ties with Chu Kuang and Xian Yu is no less significant, right?

How many billions of fans do these two have combined?

Can't even count, but the influence of Xian Yu and Chu Kuang, can definitely be classified as atom bomb level, regardless of the sphere!

In fact.

People from the Tribe are already crying!

From the moment Xian Yu and Chu Kuang announced their departure from the Tribe.

An irritating shout of rage filled with infinite anger and frustration erupted in the representative office of Tribe Literature:

"Fuck Tribe Comics!!!"